



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JANUARY 10, 2006**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PROJECT CEASEFIRE**  
**INDEPENDENCE MAN INDICTED**  
**FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegally possessing a firearm.

**Thomas J. White**, 27, of Independence, was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Today's indictment alleges that **White**, who has a criminally felony conviction, was in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge pump shotgun on July 27, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

**Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)